

A full-page photograph of a dense redwood forest. In the center, a woman in a pink shirt and green pants stands next to a massive, ancient-looking redwood tree trunk, providing a sense of scale. The forest floor is covered in dry pine needles and fallen branches. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green needles.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

A MOMENTOUS YEAR

Great Strides Toward a 100-Year Vision

Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE



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UPPER RIGHT Sam Hodder, President and CEO, left; and Justin Faggioli, Chair of the Board.

COVER Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve shelters 1,450 ancient coast redwoods. The League purchased the reserve, the largest private old-growth coast redwood forest left in the world. [Learn more on page 8.](#)

FACING PAGE A massive giant sequoia stands on Red Hill, the second-largest old-growth giant sequoia forest in private hands. The League acquired the property. [Learn more on page 8.](#)



Dear Friends of Save the Redwoods League:

Standing in the shadow of a coast redwood, it's hard to believe that something so impossibly huge grew from a tiny seed. Likewise, the scale and ambition of Save the Redwoods League would stun those who quietly came together to save the trees 100 years ago.

Our centennial celebration last year reminded us that, like an old coast redwood, we didn't achieve our stature overnight. While our goals are broad and ambitious, they are well within the grasp of a century-old organization with a legacy of achievement.

We are conserving the coast redwood range at a landscape scale, protecting old-growth forests and healing second-growth forests to accelerate their recovery. In the Sierra Nevada, we are protecting the last, large, privately held giant sequoia groves and making them more fire-resilient. In both ranges, we are enhancing our redwood parks for the inspiration and well-being of our children and grandchildren—the future stewards of one of the greatest natural legacies on the planet.

Our centennial vision is a long-term plan to return California's redwood range to its former glory—lush, healthy forests thriving in concert with human progress. We sprinted off to a great start last year with many achievements described in this report. First, we acquired two critical properties: Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve, which was the largest private old-growth coast redwood forest left in the world, and Red Hill, the second-largest old-growth giant sequoia property in private hands. We officially created Redwoods Rising, a bold new collaborative to restore coast redwood forests on a massive scale. Our groundbreaking research on climate change is offering vital insights on how redwoods are responding to this global crisis. And now that we have sequenced the coast redwood and giant sequoia genomes, we are better positioned to ensure the lasting strength of future forests. We also strengthened the organization with additional staff members to address our increased investment in restoration and public engagement, and we grew our board, standing committees, and council to support our centennial vision.

As anyone who has ever visited the redwood forest knows, a wonderful alchemy occurs when entering an ancient grove. These forests inspire a foundational connection with the beauty and power of nature. The more we learn about these extraordinary forests—from their resilience, to their capacity to store carbon, to the wonder they inspire—the more we understand that by saving the redwoods, we ultimately save ourselves. We're looking forward to the next 100 years with dedicated supporters like you.

Gratefully,

Justin Faggioli
Chair of the Board

Sam Hodder
President and Chief Executive Officer

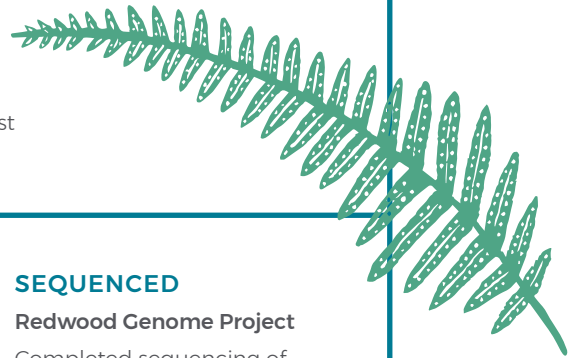
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

2018-19 ACHIEVEMENTS



Save the Redwoods League in 2018 honored its first century of success by following our centennial vision, an ambitious plan that includes bringing back California's historical redwood landscapes. In so doing, we made great strides in our mission to safeguard and restore redwood forests, and create meaningful experiences for ever-increasing numbers of visitors to these wondrous places. We purchased two large properties that are among the world's last privately owned ancient redwood forests. With our partners, we completed groundbreaking research that is critical for setting previously logged forests on the path to grow into magnificent forests for generations to come. And we introduced new worldwide audiences to our work and the magic of the redwood forests.

These conservation achievements wouldn't have been possible without your contributions to the Redwood Land Fund, which allowed us to take advantage of once-in-a-lifetime purchasing opportunities, elevate restoration to a landscape scale, and invest in the redwood parks that inspire and sustain us.



PROTECTED

Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve + Red Hill

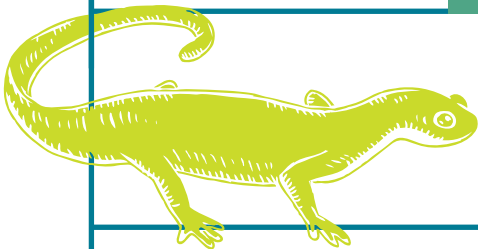
Purchased old-growth groves.

HIGHLIGHTS

SEQUENCED

Redwood Genome Project

Completed sequencing of the coast redwood and giant sequoia genomes, a historic first.



EXPLORED

Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative Phase 3

Revealed the carbon capacity and growth rates of second-growth redwood forests.

SIGNED

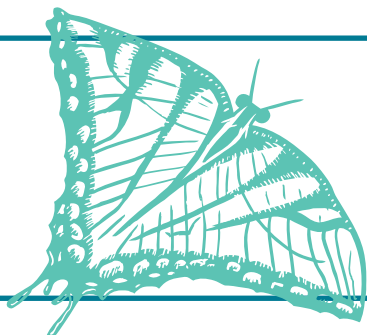
Redwoods Rising

Officially entered an agreement with the National Park Service and California State Parks, starting the restoration of logged forests in Redwood National and State Parks at an unprecedented pace and scale.

CELEBRATED

The League's Centennial

Held events connecting more than 140,000 new and longtime supporters to the redwood forests.



ADVANCED

The Grove of Titans Project

Raised \$1.36 million from more than 4,800 members to connect visitors to the grove while protecting ancient redwoods.



Protect



Protecting the ancient redwoods
and the vibrant forest landscapes
that sustain them.

We are working to secure the remaining viable old-growth redwood forests and double the protected coast redwood forest reserves over the next 100 years to ensure the forests' health and beauty will endure for generations to come.



SAVED FOREVER: ANCIENT GIANTS OF HAROLD RICHARDSON REDWOODS RESERVE

Largely untouched for thousands of years, 1,450 towering ancient coast redwoods scrape the sky near the Sonoma Coast. They are the oldest and biggest ancient redwoods south of Mendocino County, including trees older than 1,600 years, and some reaching as high as a 32-story building. Protected with the League's June 2018 purchase of McApin Ranch, this forest in Sonoma County was our highest priority for conservation in the coast redwood range. The League completed the acquisition with an exchange of the 870-acre Stewarts Point property (permanently protected with a conservation easement) and a \$9.6 million payment for the reserve. Major funding came from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, two anonymous donors, and The Mattson Family Foundation. League members also collectively provided more than \$500,000 toward the purchase.

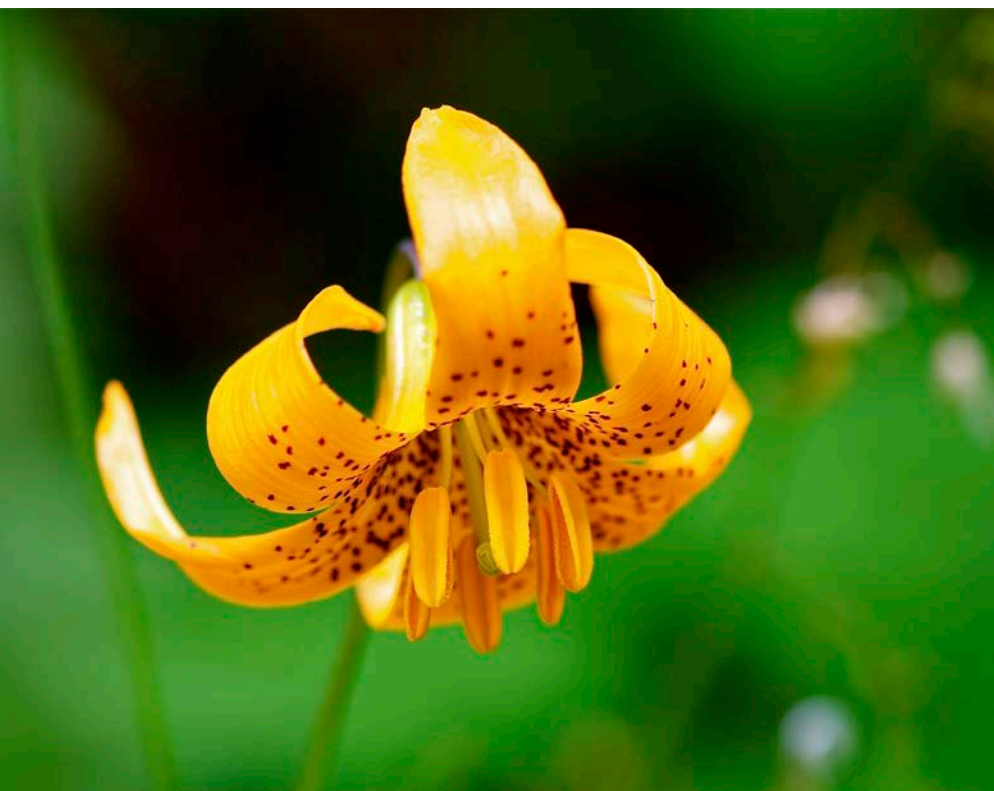
We've named this 730-acre property Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve after the late former owner, who was dedicated to sustainable timber harvesting and protection of old-growth redwoods. Management plans are being drafted, and League scientists are conducting surveys for imperiled spotted owls and marbled murrelets, as well as bats, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. To date, researchers have confirmed nine spotted owl detections and one observation of an imperiled foothill yellow-legged frog. We envision stewarding this property as a public park for all to enjoy.

SAFEGUARDING RED HILL, A SIERRA NEVADA CROWN GEM

Red Hill is about 200 miles from Los Angeles, but the journey there is a trip back in time to a wilder California where the scale of nature is more appropriate for dinosaurs than humans. Home to 110 soaring giant sequoia, this landscape for decades had cried out for permanent protection. This past year, Save the Redwoods League purchased the 160-acre inholding in Giant Sequoia National Monument, protecting not only the trees but also a complex ecosystem that supports a number of imperiled species, including Pacific fisher, Sierra marten, and California spotted owl. Moreover, our purchase creates an opportunity for our team to use the site as a laboratory for giant sequoia forest restoration that will inform land management throughout the range.

To complete the purchase and launch restoration, the League raised \$4 million, thanks in part to an anonymous benefactor who matched all donations. More than 3,100 League members contributed to the effort. We also received significant grants from local and regional foundations including The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation, the Ted Martin Legacy Fund at the Central Valley Community Foundation, The Conservation Alliance, the Flora L. Thornton Foundation, and the Summer Hill Foundation.

Following the purchase, we assembled a group of scientists who are experts in the giant sequoia range to support restoration planning for the property. Restoration activities will begin in 2020. We expect that by 2022, the League will transfer Red Hill to the US Forest Service for permanent protection as part of Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest. The Forest Service will manage the property in coordination with the monument's general plan, which emphasizes protection of ancient giant sequoia, wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection, habitat enhancement for threatened species, and recreational opportunities. These goals also conform to the priorities of the Tule River Tribe, which owns adjacent lands.



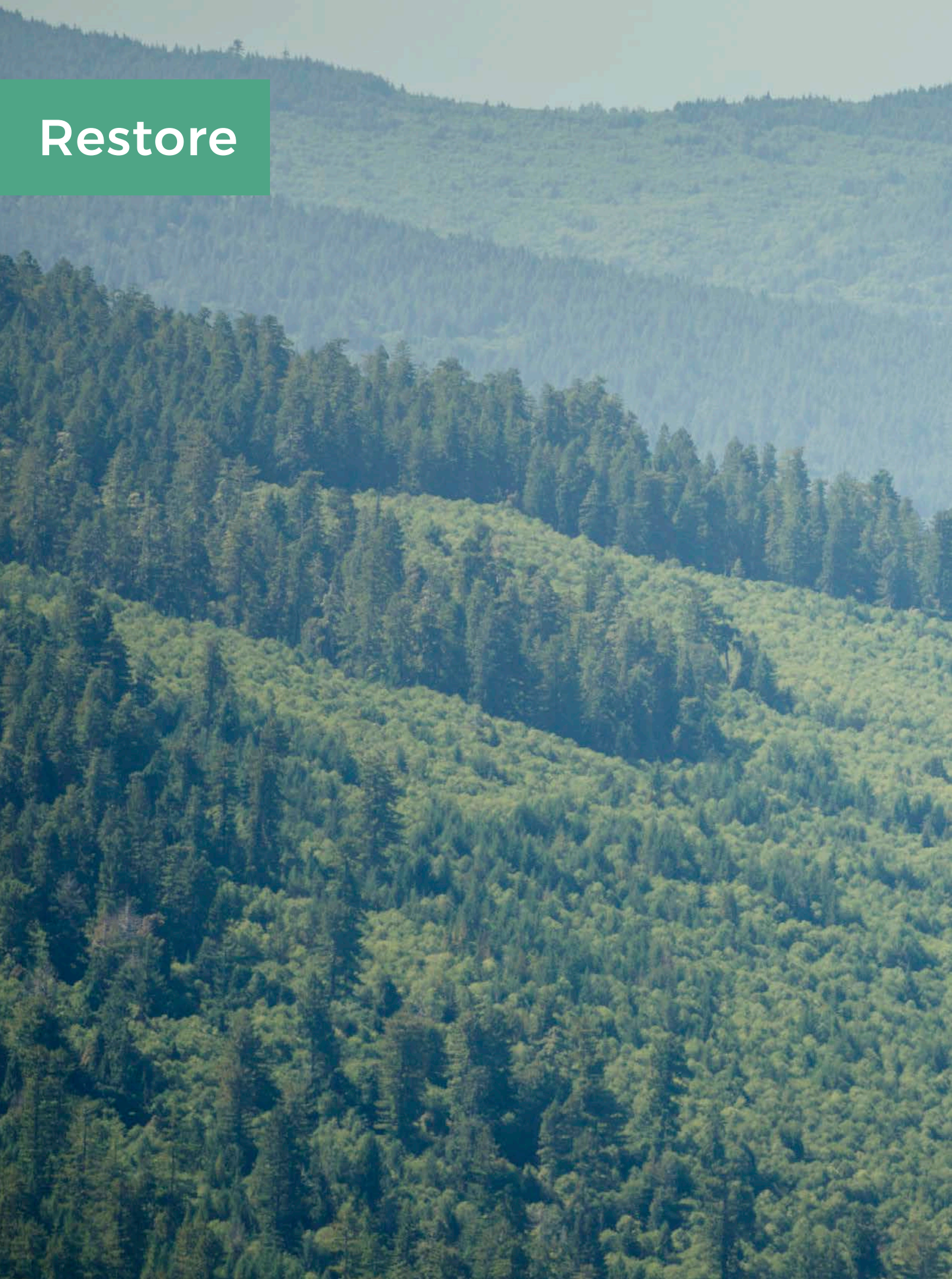
FACING PAGE Now protected by the League, Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve contains thousands of ancient redwoods—47 percent more than the famous Muir Woods National Monument.

PREVIOUS SPREAD The League purchased Red Hill, protecting this inholding in Giant Sequoia National Monument that contains 110 ancient giant sequoia and critical wildlife habitat.

Photos: Jon Parmentier; facing page, Mike Shoy; previous spread, Max Forster.



Restore



Restoring young redwood forests so they become the ancient forests for future generations.

To ensure that redwood forests thrive, we are restoring the young forests surrounding ancient groves, and using the latest science and technology to accelerate their healing.

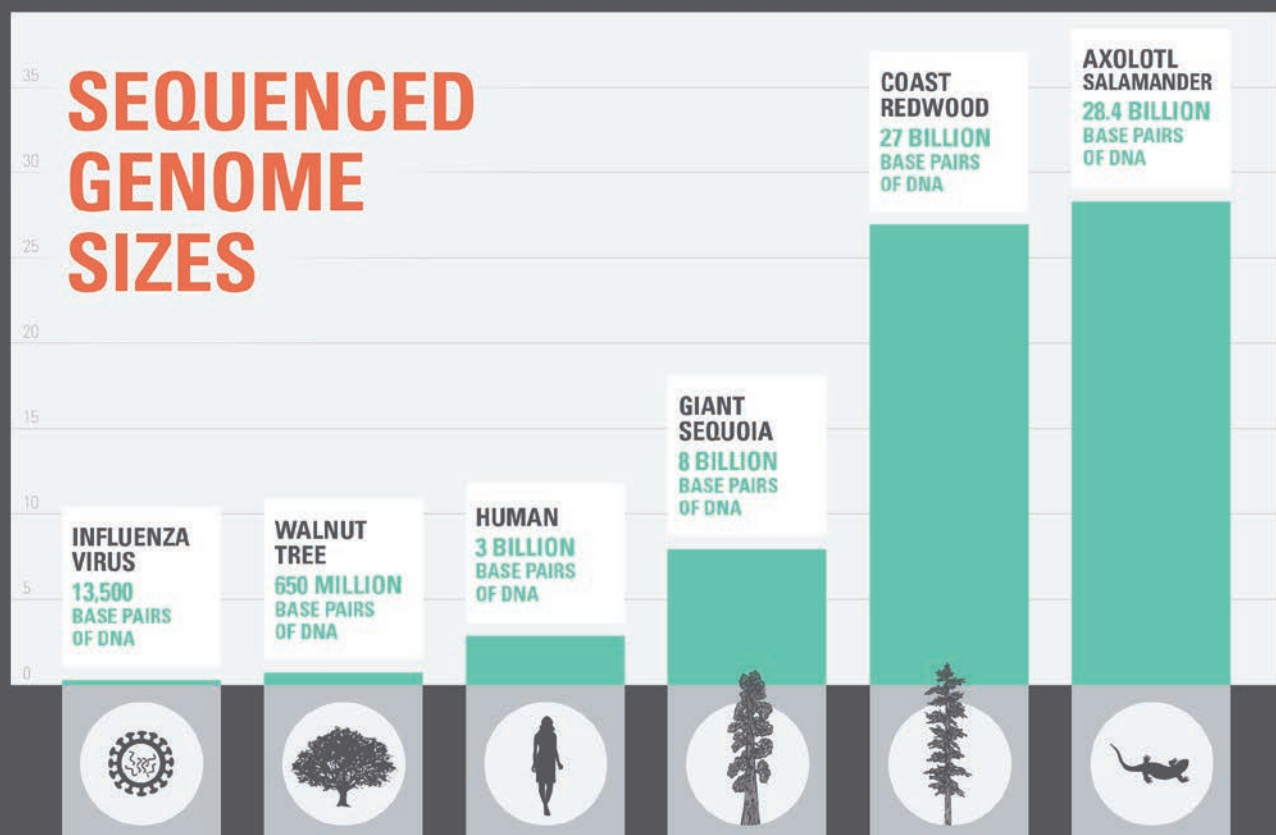
REVEALING THE GENETIC SECRETS OF THE GREAT TREES

The future of the biggest trees on Earth may depend on infinitesimally small pieces of their genetic puzzle: DNA. Individual coast redwoods and giant sequoia may seem similar to the casual observer, but each tree has a unique genetic code, and the variations can be dramatic. Some trees may be more or less resistant to drought or disease, or may grow more or less under differing circumstances. League scientists must understand these variations during this era of accelerating climate change, particularly when it comes to forest restoration. Many overcrowded second-growth forests, a number of which have been planted with clones and non-local seeds, must be thinned to hasten the development of old-growth characteristics. Before thinning, it's essential to understand the trees' genetic variation to know how to restore the genetic diversity that is the key to resilience.

That need is the genesis of the Redwood Genome Project, a five-year effort to sequence the genomes of the coast redwood and giant sequoia and develop tools to assess genetic diversity.

By any evaluation, the job was Herculean: The coast redwood genome, for example, is almost nine times the size of the human genome. But rapidly advancing sequencing techniques and falling costs convinced us our ambition was achievable. And now we can report success: The genomes of both species have been sequenced. We have taken a gigantic step toward preserving the genetic diversity of redwoods and giant sequoia and providing our scientists an essential tool in their conservation efforts.

FACING PAGE Residual old-growth redwoods rise above a forest that was logged before protection as part of Redwood National and State Parks. The League and the parks are working to bring the ancient redwoods back through Redwoods Rising, the initiative officially created during the 2018-19 fiscal year.



The coast redwood and giant sequoia genomes were sequenced by Save the Redwoods League, University of California, Davis, and Johns Hopkins University. Learn more at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodGenome](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/RedwoodGenome).

HEALING THE WORLD'S ANCIENT COAST REDWOOD FORESTS

REDWOODS RISING

Redwood National and State Parks are home to the world's tallest trees and nearly half of the remaining protected ancient redwood forests. These massive trees are exemplars of nature's splendor and a destination for visitors from around the world. They are also crucial for mitigating the effects of rapid climate change because they store more carbon per acre than any forest type on Earth.

About two-thirds of these redwood forest parks were logged extensively before they were protected. The remaining 40,000 acres of old-growth forest are disconnected by overcrowded swaths of young trees that cannot grow to their potential, develop resilience, or support the original ecosystem's rich community of life.

Setting these young forests on the path to grow into ancient forests is thus a top priority for the League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks. This past fiscal year, the three organizations signed an agreement, formally creating Redwoods Rising, an initiative to heal these damaged lands. Together, we completed a management plan for the Mill Creek and Prairie Creek areas, and developed project plans, the scope of work, and environmental compliance documents, which have been through public review.

When completed, Redwoods Rising will be the largest redwoods restoration project ever advanced. The initiative is off to a great start, receiving \$7 million from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Redwoods Rising also received \$3.5 million in private support, including \$1 million grants from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and a private foundation, as well as a generous matching gift from John Scharffenberger, a League Board of Directors member. John's gift inspired thousands of League members to contribute. These funds will help restore thousands of acres of forest and remove more than 10 miles of old, eroding logging road. Together, we can ultimately restore 70,000 acres of previously logged forests and reconnect the most inspiring ancient forests on Earth.



SETTING YOUNG FORESTS ON THE PATH TO OLD-GROWTH GLORY

Healing historically logged and damaged redwood forests is a multifaceted process, involving deep research, meticulous planning, fundraising, and a great deal of hard, dirty work. All these components must align before thinning overcrowded young forests, retiring old, eroding logging roads, planting trees, creating fish habitat structures, and removing invasive species. Our work also includes increasing the carbon storage potential of redwood and giant sequoia ecosystems, while protecting them and surrounding communities from the threat of severe wildfires.

The League supports multiple restoration projects, and we can report significant progress. At San Vicente Redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, we've thinned 110 acres, and we're planning to thin 550 more acres through 2022. At our Shady Dell forest in Mendocino County, we've completed a 3-mile-long firebreak (a gap in vegetation) that will protect the entire basin from severe wildfire. In the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea in Humboldt County, we started work on a 15.7-mile-long firebreak and meadow restoration, a project funded by a \$1.3 million CAL FIRE grant. Staffers and contractors are nearly done thinning 30 acres of young forests at Beaver Creek next to Calaveras Big Trees State Park, adding to the 120 acres already treated. We received a \$2.4 million CAL FIRE grant to thin 350 more acres, and reduce wildfire fuels (combustible vegetation) on 950 acres. These CAL FIRE grants are funded through California Climate Investments,

a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Restoration is a key part of our mission. And we know the payoff will be worth the effort: a mature, healthy redwood forest stretching from the Oregon border to Big Sur, as it did before any of us were born.



RIGHT Fifty-two mature giant sequoia died after the 2017 Pier Fire in Giant Sequoia National Monument. The League is studying the unusual wildfire impacts.

FACING PAGE, TOP Elected officials and representatives of Save the Redwoods League, the National Park Service, and California State Parks mark the signing of the agreement formally creating Redwoods Rising. When completed, this collaborative will set a record 70,000 acres of historically logged forests on a trajectory to grow into stands of ancient giants.

FACING PAGE, BOTTOM Crews thin overcrowded young forests at Beaver Creek next to Calaveras Big Trees State Park.



NEW RESEARCH SHOWS YOUNG COAST REDWOODS ARE CARBON-STORAGE CHAMPIONS

Since 2009, the League has led the Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative (RCCI), a collaborative research project that evaluates the past, present, and future impacts of climate change on our coast redwood and giant sequoia forests. The data we collect is essential to identify League priorities for acquisition and restoration through our second century. RCCI scientists have evaluated the health of old-growth coast redwoods and giant sequoia across their range, measuring growth rates, carbon capacity, and tree structure at 18 sites. This year, we added 10 research sites to the program. Located in second-growth forests at the margins of the redwood range, these new study areas will provide invaluable data for long-term restoration strategies and will refine our understanding of carbon storage in redwood forests.

A clear takeaway from RCCI research to date is the outsize role redwoods and giant sequoia play in carbon storage. Ancient coast redwood forests store three times more carbon than any other forest type on Earth. Our new studies show second-growth coast redwood forests can accumulate about a third as much aboveground biomass, and therefore carbon storage, as comparable old-growth forests in fewer than 200 years. All of our data confirm the vital importance of protecting and restoring these forests throughout their natural range, not least because of their incredible carbon storage capacity and proven viability as a long-term carbon sink.

STUDYING THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIRE AND GIANT SEQUOIA

The frequency and severity of wildfires are expected to increase as the climate changes, presenting challenges for our giant sequoia groves. In the past year, the League launched a study on wildfire impacts at two recently burned groves: Black Mountain Grove in Giant Sequoia National Monument and Nelder Grove in Sierra National Forest. Sadly, we discovered 52 mature giant sequoia in Black Mountain Grove that died as a result of the 2017 Pier Fire. This was especially surprising because giant sequoia are renowned for their fire resistance. Their thick russet bark protects them from lower-severity fires, but may not be enough to protect them from the higher-severity fires that are becoming increasingly common. Although some sequoia died in the regular, low-severity fires of the past, such high mortality is likely a new phenomenon. The heavy buildup of fuels (or combustible vegetation) because of overzealous fire suppression policies during the past century, as well as the changing climate, are increasing the severity of modern fires.

Before European settlement, giant sequoia groves were subject to frequent low-severity fires ignited by lightning strikes and indigenous people. These blazes consumed fuels, creating nutrient-rich ash on the forest floor. The recent mortality highlights the critical need to reduce excessive vegetation and woody debris in giant sequoia ecosystems through active forest management techniques that include judicious thinning and prescribed fire. These practices can help ensure that vigorous, fire-resistant giant sequoia groves survive into the future.

Connect



Connecting people to the peace and beauty of the California redwoods through a network of world-class parks and protected areas.

Redwood forest visitors have the opportunity to connect with rare, ancient beauty found nowhere else. We are creating inspirational and transformative experiences for all redwood park visitors and fostering the understanding that these forests are critical elements of California's identity.

RESCUING THE GROVE OF TITANS

In 1998, a group of researchers from Humboldt State University came across a grove of massive redwoods at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; the behemoths had gone unnoticed outside indigenous communities because they are in a remote location obscured by the surrounding heavy forest. The scientists dubbed the mighty trees the Grove of Titans, and word quickly spread. Within a few years, the Titans had become a popular destination in Redwood National and State Parks. Because there are no established trails, visitors bushwhacked to the trees, creating unofficial paths. The burgeoning numbers of hikers damaged the forest understory and tree roots. And because there were no garbage receptacles or restroom facilities in the area, trash and human waste compromised aesthetics and threatened human health.

In response, Save the Redwoods League partnered with California State Parks, the National Park Service, and Redwood Parks Conservancy to resolve this problem. By the end of 2019, work is to commence on the construction of elevated walkways to the grove and the installation of restrooms, trash receptacles, and interpretive signage. The estimated cost of the effort is \$3.5 million, and \$1.36 million has been raised. Our project received a tremendous boost in fall 2018 when Josie Merck, a Connecticut artist and conservationist, offered a \$500,000 dollar-for-dollar match. More than 4,800 dedicated and passionate League members responded to Josie's offer, donating more than \$864,000.

EDUCATING THE FUTURE STEWARDS OF REDWOOD FORESTS

Education has always been part of the League's mission, and our 2018-19 schools program advanced this body of work, reaching more than 8,500 students. Among the highlights:

In the sixth year of our Redwoods and Climate Change High School Program, we brought 944 students from San Francisco Bay Area cities into redwood forests to research the impact of the changing climate on these special places. The curriculum includes the latest scientific findings of our pioneering Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative.

Our new North Coast Redwood Education Program in Humboldt and Del Norte counties provided comprehensive curricula about the redwood forest for the area's teachers, and it funded forest field trips for five schools. The program served 670 junior high and high school students, and will be expanded to serve elementary students in fiscal year 2019-20.

Our Exploring Your Watershed Program served more than 250 elementary students from three Oakland schools. In partnership with East Bay Regional Park District, the program teaches the kids about the linkages between water and the redwood forests through classroom lessons and two field trips within their local watershed.

Finally, our Redwood Phenology Program works with junior high students to study the different life-cycle stages of plants in the redwood forest. More than 120 students in the San Francisco Bay Area collected scientific data on trees in the redwood forest and analyzed the information using a national database.



LEFT A lichen fascinates a participant in the League's new North Coast Redwood Education Program, which taught 670 junior high and high school youths in Del Norte and Humboldt counties about the forest.

FACING PAGE In the Grove of Titans, a parks official shows where off-trail visitors have stripped an ancient giant of vegetation. The League and partners are uniting to build elevated trails to mitigate such damage.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS BUILD MOMENTUM

Our year-long centennial celebration in 2018 was about more than looking back and admiring our legacy. It was about celebrating with you, our partners, and community members who care about and protect California's iconic redwood forests. You make our work possible, and together, we are beginning our second century of success.

In fiscal year 2018-19, more than 140,000 new and longtime friends celebrated with us. Among the highlights:

- 24,000 people explored the exhibit, *Sustaining Grandeur: The First 100 Years of Save the Redwoods League*, in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. The exhibit showcased the League's victories in protecting our redwood forests.
- 10,000 forest fans celebrated with us at the Stand for the Redwoods 9th Annual Earth Day Festival in San Francisco, learning about our latest research and goals for our next 100 years.
- More than 10,000 people experienced the forests' wonder using passes to redwood parks through our Free Second Saturdays program; 70 percent of the participants were first-time visitors.
- 2,500 visitors got an early look at California Academy of Sciences' major exhibit, *Giants of Land and Sea*, during a NightLife event in San Francisco. The League helped create part of the ongoing exhibit on our remarkable redwood forests.
- 40,000 fans at a San Francisco Giants baseball game learned about our mission, celebrated our centennial, and marked the team's 60th anniversary in California.
- 730 guests at our Centennial Celebration Gala in San Francisco contributed nearly \$2 million to support our education and parks support programs.
- 3,600 celebrants came to our redwoods festivals in San Francisco and Orick in Humboldt County, enjoying live music and family activities, and learning about the forests.
- 750 film fans and conservationists attended the premiere of *Old Survivor*, a documentary featuring the League's mission and history, at Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland.
- More than 8,000 students worldwide welcomed the giant sequoia of Calaveras Big Trees State Park into their classrooms through a new distance learning program, the League-supported Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students.
- 105 new Redwood Legacy Circle members pledged bequests, inspired by an offer from League Board member Peggy Light, who matched each new commitment with an outright gift of \$1,000.
- More than 1,400 members contributed to the establishment of Members Centennial Grove 2018 in Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest next to Portola Redwoods State Park.
- With Heyday Books, we published *The Once and Future Forest*, a beautiful volume of essays on the redwood forest written by prominent researchers and conservation writers Gary Ferguson, David Harris, Meg Lowman, Greg Sarris, and David Rains Wallace.

100 YEARS IS JUST THE BEGINNING





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT More than 40,000 San Francisco Giants fans learned about the League's mission as the two organizations celebrated anniversaries at a baseball game.

The League's Free Second Saturdays program provided free passes to redwood parks across California, connecting thousands of people to these natural legacies; 70 percent were first-time visitors.

Photos of redwood forest wildlife capture a youngster's attention at the League-sponsored Earth Day Festival in San Francisco, which drew 10,000 people.

FACING PAGE, FROM TOP Guests at our Centennial Celebration Gala and auction in San Francisco contributed nearly \$2 million to support our education and parks support programs.

The exhibit, *Sustaining Grandeur: The First 100 Years of Save the Redwoods League*, attracted 24,000 visitors who viewed photos, letters, films, and other artifacts.

The Stand for the Redwoods Festival in San Francisco brought the forest to 3,000 new fans.

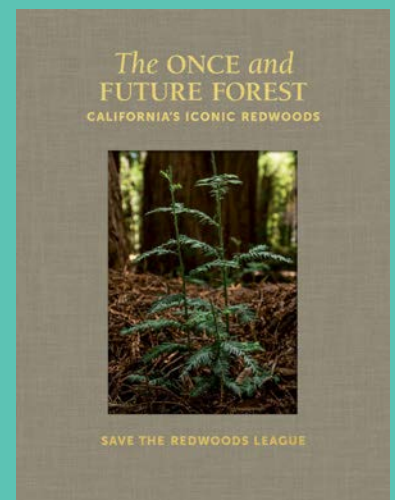
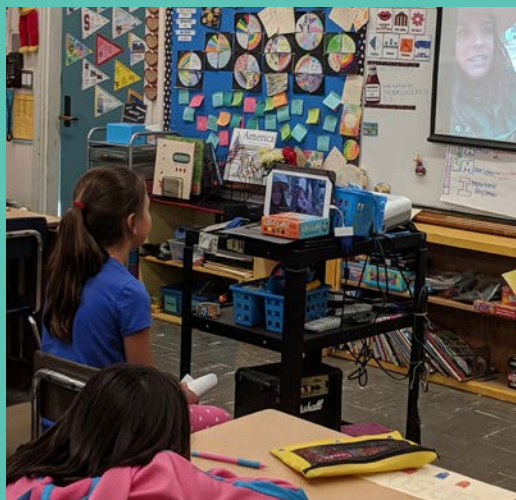


FAR RIGHT To mark the centennial of Save the Redwoods, the League published *The Once and Future Forest*, a stunning book featuring essays about the redwood forest by prominent researchers and conservation writers.

RIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM From their classrooms, more than 8,000 students worldwide learned about giant sequoia through a new distance learning program, the League-supported Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students. They interacted in real time with an interpretive specialist who was in the forest.

BOTTOM At the Stand for the Redwoods Festival in Humboldt County, some of the 650 guests learned about the League's Orick property, site of the planned Redwood National and State Parks Visitor Center and Restoration Project.

FACING PAGE The League pushed for and celebrated the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The federal fund will allow us to expand Headwaters Forest Reserve with the transfer of our Westfall Ranch property, pictured.





MEDIA COVERAGE REACHES 800 MILLION READERS AND VIEWERS

The League, our work, and the redwood forest garnered extensive coverage. National and regional print, broadcast, and online media ran 1,765 stories on our projects and people, reaching 800 million readers and viewers. Stories on our redwood genome research ran on “CBS News Sunday Morning” and CNN Virtual Reality, and Outside Online posted a feature on Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve. The Los Angeles Times published a story on the Grove of Titans restoration project, and the San Francisco Chronicle and The Mercury News ran multiple stories on the League’s efforts. Our work was covered by a legion of local newspapers and broadcast stations, online sites, and bloggers, and propagated widely on social media. Interest in our work and mission always has been deep, and coverage is growing with our expanding purview.

ADVANCING TOWARD A VISITOR CENTER WORTHY OF THE GREATEST FORESTS

With our partners—the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Yurok Tribe—the League continued to make progress in planning and design for the Redwood National and State Parks Visitor Center and Restoration Project at our Orick Mill Site property. The vision is to establish a world-class gateway that introduces visitors to this UNESCO World Heritage site, home to 45 percent of the remaining protected old-growth coast redwoods and the tallest trees on the planet. The project includes restoring natural functions to lower Prairie Creek, reconnecting wildlife corridors, and integrating the Yurok voice and experience throughout this site within the tribe’s ancestral territory.

This project has been years in the planning, and in 2018-19, we completed the schematic design, which addresses the basic scope of the project, and kicked off the regulatory compliance processes. If fundraising is successful, we plan to break ground in 2021. When complete, the visitor center and restored wetland will be transferred to the National Park Service to welcome millions of visitors for many years to come.

CHAMPIONING REDWOOD FORESTS IN PUBLIC POLICIES

Save the Redwoods League took strong positions on several policies and measures that will benefit redwood forests.

At the federal level, we pushed for and celebrated the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the nation’s most critical conservation and recreation funding program. Despite the law’s promise to provide \$900 million annually for conservation initiatives across the country, including redwood forest protection, it is subject to the vagaries of the annual federal budget process. So, on the heels of the historic victory to permanently reauthorize our country’s most successful conservation and parks program, we must now fight for the full and dedicated funding that lawmakers always intended the program to have. Thanks to the LWCF, the League can fulfill its commitment to expand Headwaters Forest Reserve by transferring our Westfall Ranch property to the Bureau of Land Management, and protect the incredible old-growth reserves of Mailliard Ranch.

In the 2018 elections, we held a leadership role in the statewide campaign to help pass Proposition 68, the \$4.1 billion parks, water, and climate protection bond that passed with California voters’ overwhelming support. The League also led support for conservation funding measures in the San Francisco Bay Area. Voters overwhelmingly supported Measure FF in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and Measure M in Sonoma County. Funding from Measure FF will support the League’s education and interpretation programs, as well as forest restoration projects on East Bay Regional Park District redwood lands. Measure M will support work to protect and restore redwood forests in Sonoma County, and build trails and park infrastructure for the public.

And finally, we opposed, and voters rejected, Proposition 6, the California ballot measure that would have repealed the state gas tax. This outcome was a win for the League because a significant portion of gas tax revenue is directed to creating jobs that support our work to expand and enhance California State Parks across the redwood range.

COUNCIL

Kate Anderton	James L. Larson
T. A. Barron	*Peggy Light
*Matthew K. Berler	Christa Lyons
Stephen J. Butler	Dave Mahler
*Rosemary Cameron	Donald Massey
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Michael Helms	*Andy Vought
Sam Hodges	David Wake
Reed Holderman	David Weinberg
Annette Boushey Holland	Mark X. Wentworth
David Horn	Frank W. Wentworth
Dwight Johnson	*C. Blake T. Williams
Erin Kelly	Michael Woo
Noel Kirshenbaum	*Mike Wyatt
Yoriko Kishimoto	

OFFICERS

*Justin Faggioli, Chair of the Board
*Matthew K. Berler, Vice Chair of the Board
Sam Hodder, President and Chief Executive Officer
Rolando Cohen, Chief Financial Officer and
Chief Operations Officer
*C. Blake T. Williams, Treasurer
*Andy Vought, Secretary
Harry Pollack, Assistant Secretary

HONORARY COUNCILORS

Gwendolyn Garland Babcock	William J. Libby
Norman M. Christensen	Samuel M. Livermore
Edwin F. Claassen	Walter Mark
Sarah Connick	Peter H. Mattson
Sandra J. Denny	George McLaughlin
Joseph H. Engbeck Jr.	Stephen Mather McPherson
Terry Garcia	Tom Morrish
Cynthia M. Grubb	George S. Peyton Jr.
Jack F. Harper	George Sardina
Jane Turner Hart	Robert G. Sproul III
Barry Connick Howard	John D. Taylor
Paul W. Hull	Deborah Widener
David Husch	Mary Wright
Nicholas Kent	
Sharon Kramer	

**Board of Directors (15 directors)*

YOU CAN STAND FOR THE FUTURE

SPEAK UP

Learn about measures you can support with your vote and voice.

[SaveTheRedwoods.org/action](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/action)

SHARE

Tell your family and friends about redwood forests and Save the Redwoods League. Join our social media communities.

[SaveTheRedwoods.org/social](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/social)

VISIT

Introduce your friends and family to more than 100 coast redwood and giant sequoia parks by using our improved trip-planning tool.

[ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploretheredwoods.org)

DONATE

Renew your membership; give monthly; make an honor or memorial gift; leave a gift in your will; donate your car; dedicate a grove or tree; or give stock.

[SaveTheRedwoods.org/WaysToGive](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/WaysToGive)

VOLUNTEER

Choose from many roles to help in California redwood state parks.

[Parks.Ca.gov/Volunteer](https://parks.ca.gov/Volunteer)

**STAND
FOR
THE FUTURE**



Finances

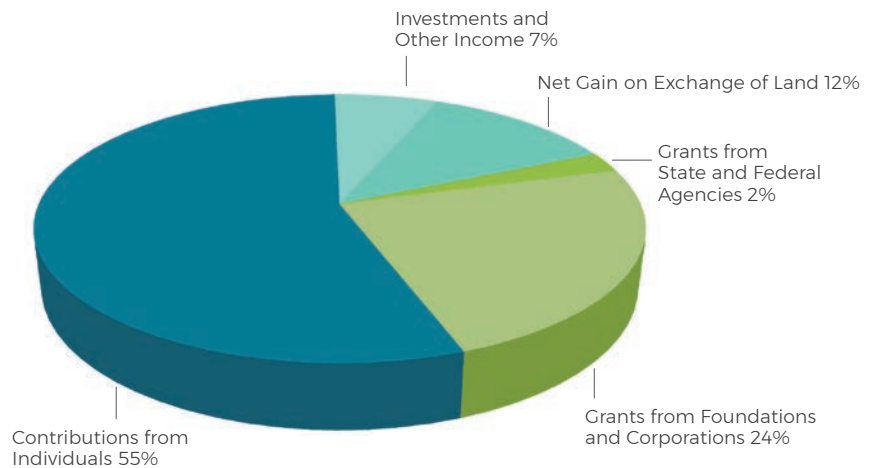
The Impact of Your Support 2018-19

Thanks to more than 22,300 members and volunteers, Save the Redwoods League achieved a number of significant accomplishments in our mission to protect and restore redwood forests and connect people from California and throughout the world to their peace and beauty.

REVENUE BY CATEGORY 2018-19

TOTAL REVENUE \$28,219,467

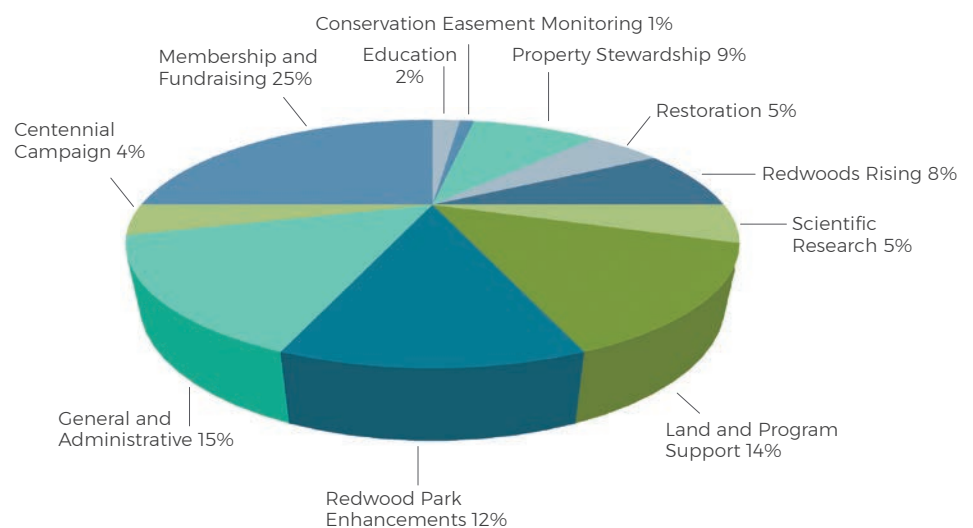
The League's revenue for the fiscal year was \$28.2 million. The League receives significant support in gifts and grants from individuals, foundations, and corporations for our work. The revenue-by-category chart excludes unrealized gains and losses.



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY 2018-19

TOTAL EXPENSES \$18,183,418

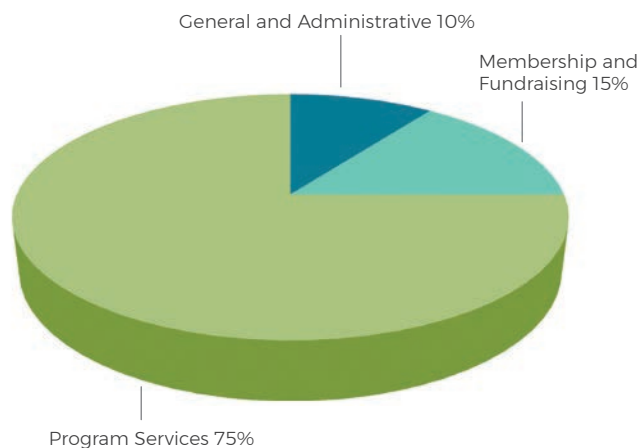
Expenses reflect the work of the League throughout the year in acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements; conducting scientific research; providing outreach and education programs; and making enhancements in redwood parks to improve the visitor experience.



The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2019, has been derived from the League's 2019 financial statements audited by BPM LLP independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2019 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited financial statements or visit SaveTheRedwoods.org/financials.

EXPENSE RATIO 5-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE

As is common in land conservation, the transaction cycle of purchasing, holding, and transferring land for Save the Redwoods League often requires several years for completion. While land and forests are protected from the moment the League acquires them, the League often remains a steward of those lands until they can be transferred to a public agency or nonprofit land trust for ongoing stewardship, public access, and permanent protection. The program expense is recognized only when a property is transferred to its permanent steward, or when a conservation easement is acquired. Since land divestments and conservation easement acquisitions are episodic and markedly affect the League's expense ratio from year to year, we believe a five-year rolling average is a more meaningful depiction of our program expense ratio.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$ 22,305,902
Grants from state and federal agencies	681,467
Interest and dividends	2,823,105
Realized gain on sale of investments (net)	1,019,341
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments (net)	(2,297,141)
Net gain on exchange of land	3,387,503
Interest from loans	3,928
Other income	295,362

Total revenue and public support \$ 28,219,467

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Redwood land programs	\$ 8,903,966
Education and research grants	250,480
Redwood restoration grants	76,145
Climate change research grants	248,403
Park support grants	471,875
Other grants	120,344

Total program services \$ 10,071,213

SUPPORT SERVICES

General and administrative	\$ 2,847,837
Fundraising	5,264,368

Total support services 8,112,205

Total expenses 18,183,418

Change in net assets 10,036,049

Net assets, beginning of year 124,734,489

Net assets, end of year \$134,779,538

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,948,336
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	37,460
Contributions, grants, and other receivables, net	12,628,936
Notes receivable	84,672
Deposits for land transactions	3,460,000
Other assets	326,793
Property and equipment, net	1,837,553
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	5,565,190
Investments	58,304,612
Real estate held	46,439,683
Endowment fund	1,012,946

Total assets \$ 137,646,181

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,766,643
Notes payable	1,100,000

Total liabilities \$ 2,866,643

NET ASSETS

Undesignated	\$ 5,273,257
Board designated	84,600,000

Total without donor restrictions \$ 89,873,257

With donor restrictions \$ 44,906,281

Total net assets 134,779,538

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 137,646,181

Our net assets empower the League to purchase and protect threatened redwood forestland in a complex and fast-paced real estate market, enabling us to seize opportunities to buy, hold, restore, and transfer properties for permanent protection.



Save The Redwoods

L E A G U E

STAND
FOR
THE **FUTURE**

At the start of our second century, we are making great progress toward our vision of doubling the size of the protected coast redwood forest reserves, putting young forests on the path to become magnificent old-growth forests, and connecting people to the redwoods through a network of magnificent parks and protected areas that inspire all of us with the beauty and power of nature.



To use our resources responsibly, this publication is printed with soy-based inks on paper that contains recycled fiber and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

If you must print this electronic version, please help conserve our forests by reusing paper or choosing recycled, chlorine-free paper made from waste.

